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Nonreciprocal metasurfaces

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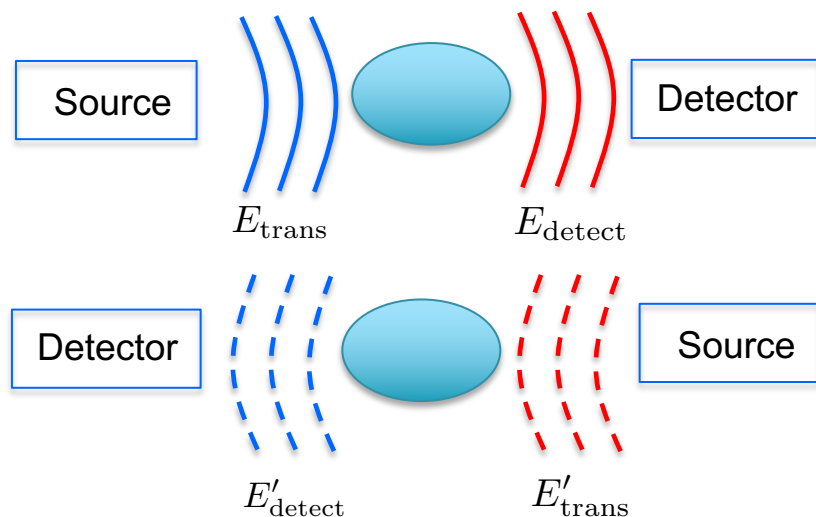


Outline

- ☐ Introduction to electromagnetic reciprocity
- ☐ Nonreciprocal EM systems
- ☐ Time-Floquet metasurfaces
- ☐ Spatio-temporal modulated metasurfaces for nonreciprocal wavefront control
- ☐ Summary and future work

Electromagnetic reciprocity

- **Reciprocity:** “going the same way backward as forward”. A reciprocal system exhibits the same received-transmitted field ratios when it source(s) and detector(s) are exchanged



$$\eta = \frac{E_{\text{detect}}}{E_{\text{trans}}}$$

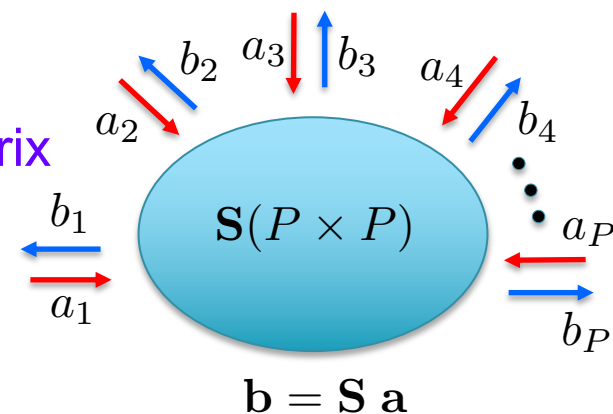
$$\eta = \eta' \rightarrow \text{Reciprocity}$$

$$\eta' = \frac{E'_{\text{detect}}}{E'_{\text{trans}}}$$

- A reciprocal system has a symmetric scattering matrix

$$\mathbf{S} = \mathbf{S}^T \text{ or } S_{ij} = S_{ji} \quad \forall (i, j)$$

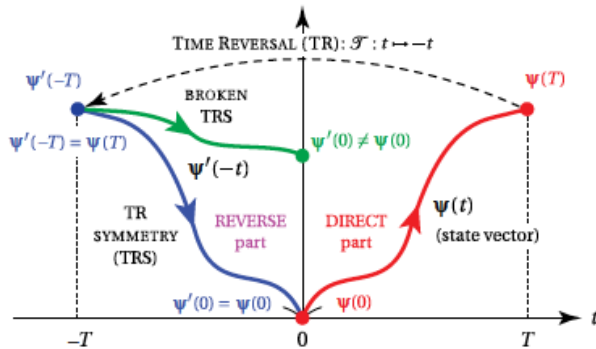
- For linear systems $S_{ij} = b_i/a_j|_{a_k=0, k \neq j}$
- For nonlinear systems $S_{ij} = S_{ij}(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_P)$



- Linear, time-independent, symmetric ϵ and $\mu \rightarrow$ reciprocity

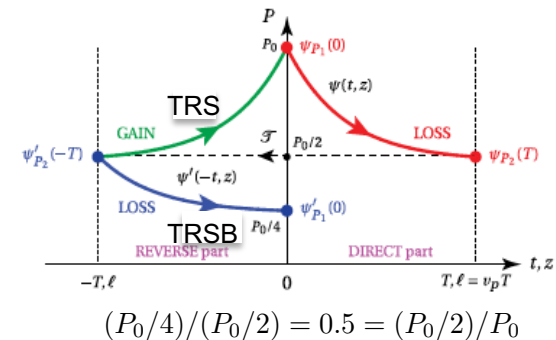
Reciprocity and time-reversal symmetry (TRS)

□ TRS \Rightarrow Reciprocity



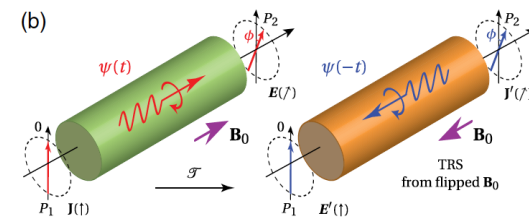
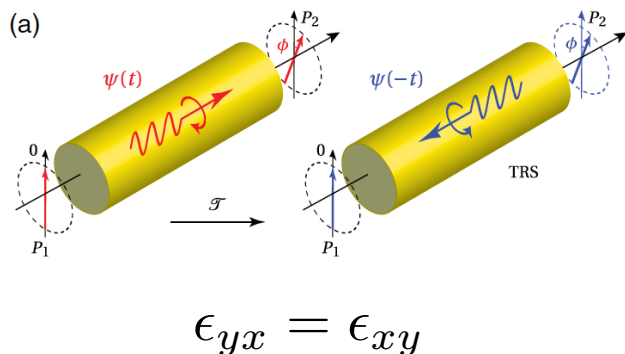
but the converse
is not true

□ Reciprocity $\not\Rightarrow$ TRS
(e.g. lossy systems)

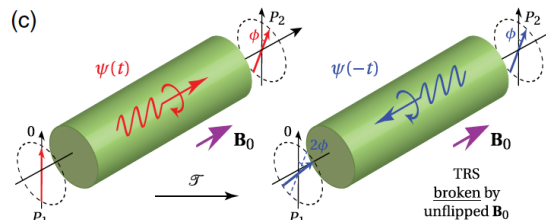


□ Chiral systems are reciprocal

□ Faraday systems are not reciprocal



System altered on full
TR, so not useful for
properly deciding on
reciprocity



Preserve spin states
by not flipping B_0

$$\mu_{yx}(\mathbf{B}_0) = -\mu_{xy}(\mathbf{B}_0) \quad \epsilon_{yx}(\mathbf{B}_0) = -\epsilon_{xy}(\mathbf{B}_0)$$

Electromagnetic nonreciprocity

□ **Nonreciprocity**: absence of reciprocity! $\mathbf{S}(\mathbf{F}_0) \neq \mathbf{S}^T(\mathbf{F}_0)$ or $\exists(i, j) \mid S_{ij} \neq S_{ji}$

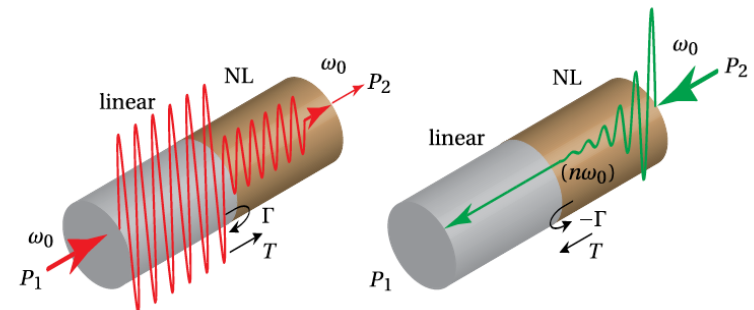
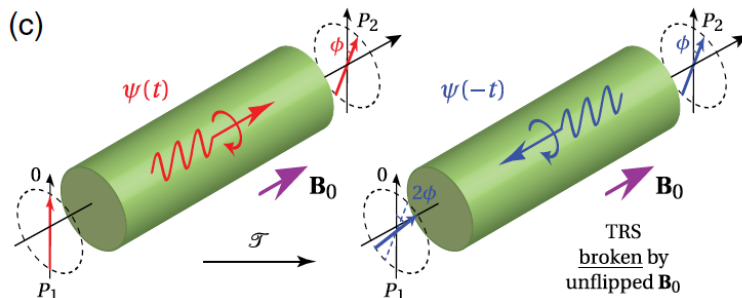
□ **Lorentz theorem** suggests a few directions in the quest for nonreciprocity

➤ Magneto-optical materials

- External bias: magnetic field
- Linear (strong nonreciprocity)
- Time-invariant (frequency conservation)
- Ferrites, 2D electron gases, etc.
- **Require bulky magnets**

➤ Nonlinear materials

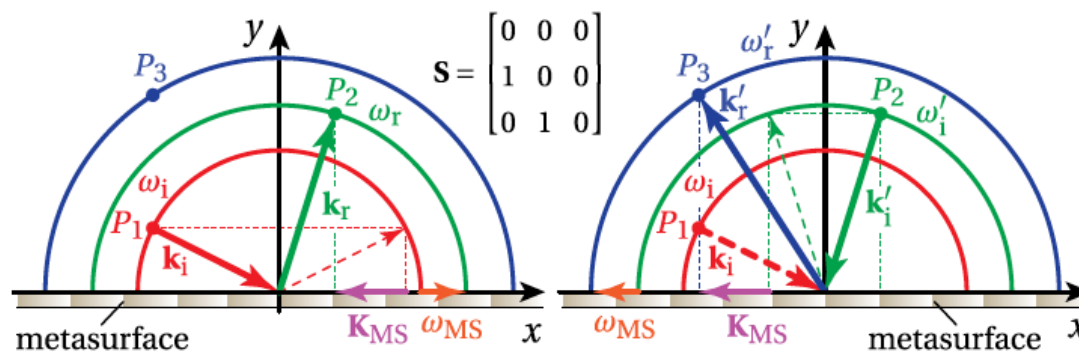
- Self-biasing (electric field) + spatial asymmetry
- Harmonic generation
- Inapplicability of superposition
- **Power dependent (weak nonreciprocity)**



Spatio-temporal modulation for nonreciprocity

➤ Space-time modulation

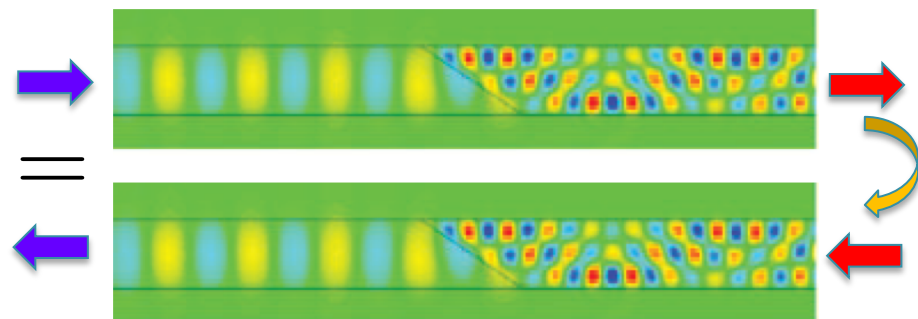
- External bias: velocity (\sim spatial inversion symmetry breaking)
- Linear (strong nonreciprocity)
- Harmonic & anharmonic generation
- Optomechanics, electro/acousto-optics, **STMMs**
- Pulse or periodic, abrupt or smooth medium/wave modulation
- **Challenging implementation!**



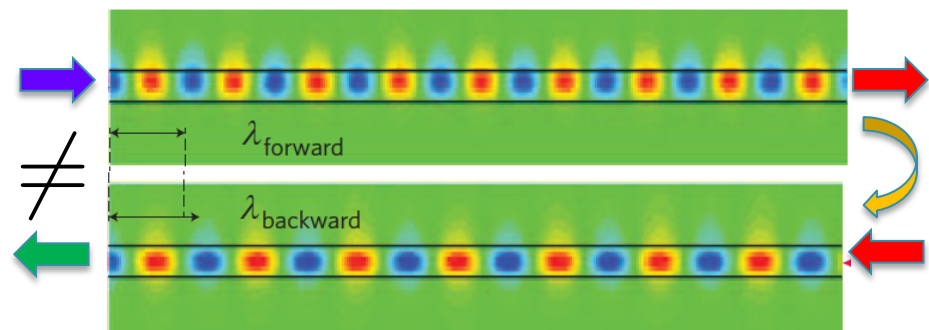
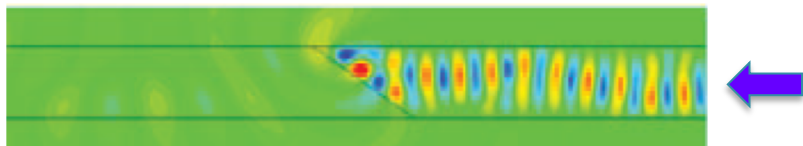
$$n(x) = n_0 + \delta n \cos(K_{MS}x + \omega_{MS}t)$$

Nonreciprocity is different from asymmetric propagation

- There is a large confusion in the literature between nonreciprocity and asymmetric propagation



- System is reciprocal (not an isolator)
- But, there is asymmetric propagation



- System is nonreciprocal (can be used as an isolator)
- Asymmetric scattering matrix

$$S_{12}(B) \neq S_{21}(B)$$

Time-modulated metasurfaces

□ Time-modulated meta-atom

$$\epsilon(x, y, t) = \epsilon_c(x, y) + \delta\epsilon(x, y, t)$$



Assume EM field is z-polarized. We need to solve

$$\text{e.g. } \delta\epsilon = \delta(x, y) \cos(\Omega t + \phi)$$

$$\nabla^2 E(x, y, t) = \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} [\epsilon(x, y, t) E(x, y, t)]$$

□ Coupled mode theory

$$E(x, y, t) = a_1(t) E_1(x, y) a_2(t) E_2(x, y) \quad \text{where} \quad \nabla^2 E_{1,2}(x, y) = -\epsilon_c(x, y) \frac{\omega_{1,2}^2}{c^2} E_{1,2}(x, y)$$

Assuming small and slow perturbation, i.e. $\delta\epsilon/\epsilon_c$, $\dot{\delta\epsilon}/\omega_{1,2}\epsilon_c$, $\ddot{\delta\epsilon}/\omega_{1,2}^2\epsilon_c \ll 1$

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{a}_1(t) &= (i\omega_1 - \gamma_1) a_1(t) + iC_{12}(t) a_2(t) \\ \dot{a}_2(t) &= (i\omega_2 - \gamma_2) a_2(t) + iC_{21}(t) a_1(t) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} C_{12}(t) &= \mathcal{C} \int_{\text{MA}} dx dy E_1^*(x, y) E_2(x, y) \delta\epsilon(x, y, t) \\ C_{21}(t) &= \mathcal{C} \int_{\text{MA}} dx dy E_1(x, y) E_2^*(x, y) \delta\epsilon(x, y, t) \end{aligned}$$

Note that $\delta\epsilon$ must break spatial symmetry; otherwise $C_{12} = C_{21} = 0$

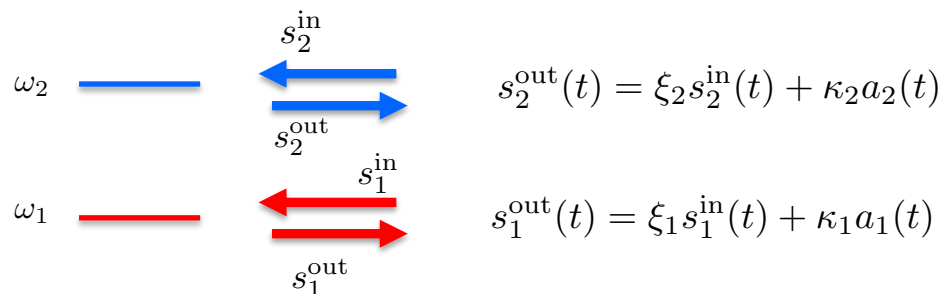
Harmonic modulation of the complex dielectric function

□ Harmonic time modulated perturbation

$$\delta\epsilon(x, y, t) = \delta_R(x, y) \cos(\Omega t + \phi_R) + i\delta_I(x, y) \sin(\Omega t + \phi_I)$$

$$\Rightarrow C_{12}(t) = C_{12}^+ e^{i\Omega t} + C_{12}^- e^{-i\Omega t} \quad C_{12}^\pm = \frac{C}{2} \int_{\text{MA}} d\mathbf{r} E_1^* E_2 [\delta_R e^{\pm i\phi_R} \pm \delta_I e^{\pm i\phi_I}]$$

□ Coupling to external ports:



$$\dot{a}_1(t) = (i\omega_1 - \gamma_1) a_1(t) + i[C_{12}^+ e^{i\Omega t} + C_{12}^- e^{-i\Omega t}] a_2(t) + \kappa_1 s_1^{\text{in}}(t)$$

$$\dot{a}_2(t) = (i\omega_2 - \gamma_2) a_2(t) + i[C_{21}^+ e^{i\Omega t} + C_{21}^- e^{-i\Omega t}] a_1(t) + \kappa_2 s_2^{\text{in}}(t)$$

$$a_{1,2}(t) = a_{1,2}^H(t) + a_{1,2}^P(t)$$

Homogeneous solution: Floquet theory

□ Floquet theory for time-periodic systems:

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) = \mathbf{O}(t)\mathbf{x}(t) \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{x}(t) = e^{-i\mu t} \mathbf{p}(t) \quad \text{where} \quad \mathbf{p}(t) = \mathbf{p}(t + T)$$

with $\mathbf{O}(t) = \mathbf{O}(t + T)$ μ quasi-energy

The quasi-energies are solutions to $\det[\mathbf{U}(T, 0) - e^{-i\mu T} \mathbf{I}] = 0$ $\mathbf{x}(T) = \mathbf{U}(T, 0)\mathbf{x}(0)$

□ For our modulated meta-atom

$$a_{1,2}^{H,\pm}(t) \sim e^{-i\mu_{\pm} t} e^{-\gamma_{1,2} t}$$

$$\mu_{\pm} = \frac{-(\omega_1 + \omega_2) \pm \sqrt{(\omega_2 - \omega_1 - \Omega)^2 + 4C_{12}^+ C_{21}^-}}{2}$$

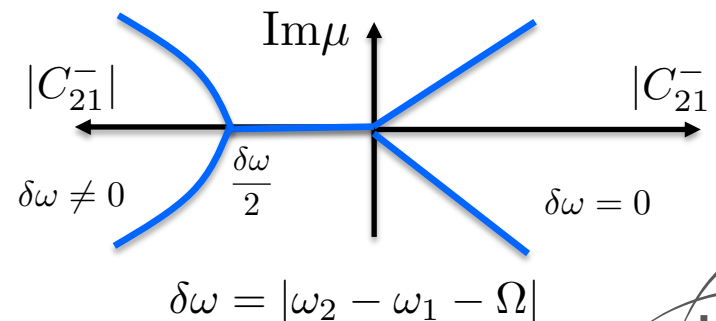
When $(\omega_2 - \omega_1 - \Omega)^2 + 4C_{21}^+ C_{12}^- > 0$, both quasi-energies are real, and hence $a_{1,2}^{H,\pm}(t) \rightarrow 0$

Otherwise, μ_{\pm} has an imaginary component \rightarrow exponential growth in time (gain)

□ Example: modulate only $\text{Im}(\delta\epsilon)$

$$\Rightarrow C_{12}^+ = -(C_{21}^-)^*$$

$$\text{Im}\mu_{\pm} = \pm \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{(\delta\omega)^2 - 4|C_{21}^-|^2}$$



Nonreciprocal metasurfaces

□ In steady state

$$a_{1,2}^{H,\pm}(t) \rightarrow 0 \quad s_1^{\text{in,out}}(t) = \mathcal{S}_1^{\text{in,out}} e^{i\omega t} \quad s_2^{\text{in,out}}(t) = \mathcal{S}_2^{\text{in,out}} e^{i(\omega+\Omega)t}$$

$$a_1^P(t) = \mathcal{A}_1 e^{i\omega t} \quad a_2(t) = \mathcal{A}_2 e^{i(\omega+\Omega)t}$$

$$\dot{a}_1(t) = (i\omega_1 - \gamma_1)a_1(t) + iC_{12}^- e^{-i\Omega t} a_2(t) - \kappa_1 s_1^{\text{in}}(t)$$

$$\dot{a}_2(t) = (i\omega_2 - \gamma_2)a_2(t) + iC_{21}^+ e^{i\Omega t} a_1(t) - \kappa_2 s_2^{\text{in}}(t)$$

where we used the rotating-wave approximation (discard fast counter-rotating terms)

□ Output fields

$$\mathcal{S}_1^{\text{out}} = \left\{ \xi_1 + \frac{\kappa_1^2 [i(\omega - \omega_2) + \gamma_2]}{D} \right\} \mathcal{S}_1^{\text{in}} + \frac{i\kappa_1 \kappa_2}{D} C_{12}^- \mathcal{S}_2^{\text{in}}$$

$$\mathcal{S}_2^{\text{out}} = \left\{ \xi_2 + \frac{\kappa_2^2 [i(\omega - \omega_1) + \gamma_1]}{D} \right\} \mathcal{S}_2^{\text{in}} + \frac{i\kappa_1 \kappa_2}{D} C_{21}^+ \mathcal{S}_1^{\text{in}}$$

$$D = [i(\omega - \omega_1) + \gamma_1][i(\omega + \Omega - \omega_2) + \gamma_2] + C_{12}^- C_{21}^+$$

When $C_{12}^- \neq C_{21}^+ \Rightarrow$ System is nonreciprocal

- “Partial” nonreciprocity $\delta_R \neq 0, \delta_I = 0$
- “Full” nonreciprocity $\delta_R = \delta_I$ and $\phi_R = \phi_I$

$$C_{12}^- = (C_{21}^+)^*$$

$$S_{12} \sim e^{-i\phi} \neq S_{21} \sim e^{+i\phi}$$

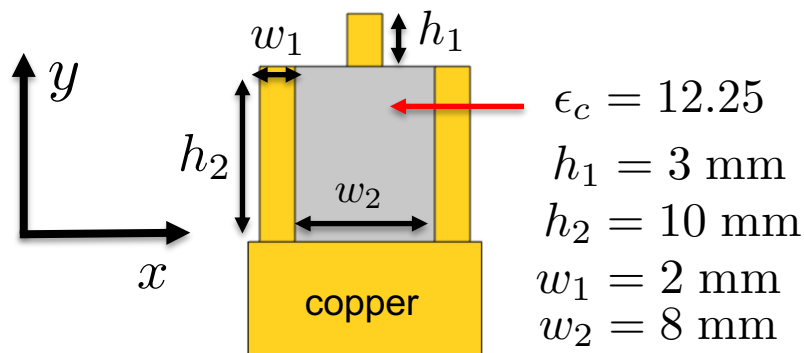
$$S_{12} = 0 \neq S_{21} \sim e^{+i\phi} \quad C_{21}^+ \neq 0 \quad C_{12}^- = 0$$

Dynamic (nonreciprocal) focusing with STMMs

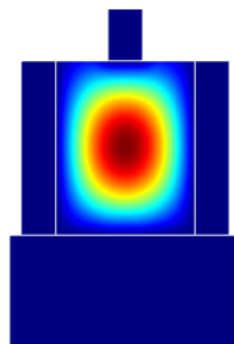
□ Phase distribution over the meta-surface $\phi = \phi(x)$

→ dynamical wavefront control using spatio-temporal modulated metasurfaces

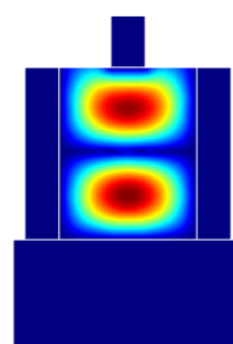
□ Unperturbed meta-atom



$\omega_1 = 6.8 \text{ GHz}$



$\omega_2 = 9.9 \text{ GHz}$

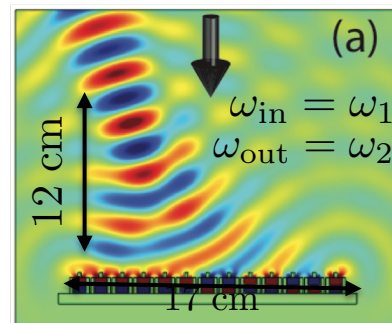


□ STMM with parabolic phase distribution

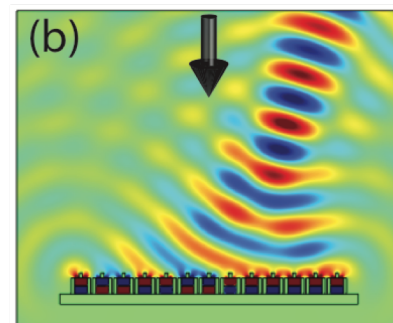
$$\epsilon(x, y, t) = \epsilon_c + \delta(y) \cos[\Omega t + \phi(x)]$$

$$\phi(x) = \frac{\omega_{\text{in}}}{c} \sqrt{(x - x_f)^2 + y_f^2} \quad \Omega = \omega_2 - \omega_1$$

$$\delta(y) = \delta \theta(y - h_2/2) \quad \delta/\epsilon_c = 0.1$$



$x_f = -5 \text{ cm}$



$x_f = +5 \text{ cm}$

Dynamic (nonreciprocal) beam steering with STMMs

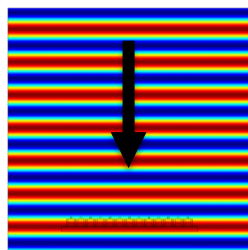
□ STMM with linear phase distribution $\phi(x) = \frac{\omega_{\text{in}}}{c} x (\sin \theta_i - \sin \theta_r)$

- Modulating the real part only

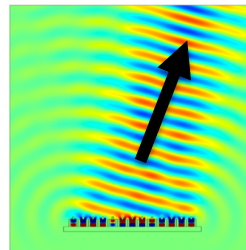
$$\epsilon(x, y, t) = \epsilon_c + \delta(y) \cos[\Omega t + \phi(x)] \Rightarrow S_{12} \sim e^{-i\phi} \neq S_{21} \sim e^{+i\phi}$$

$$\theta_i = 0 \text{ deg}$$

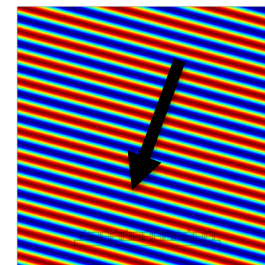
$$\theta_r = 15 \text{ deg}$$



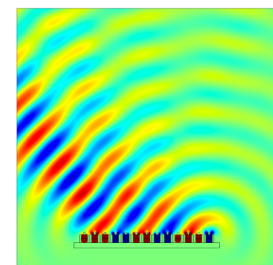
$$\omega_{\text{in}} = \omega_1$$



$$\omega_{\text{out}} = \omega_2$$



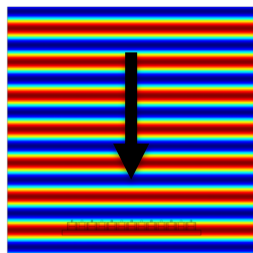
$$\omega_{\text{in}} = \omega_2$$



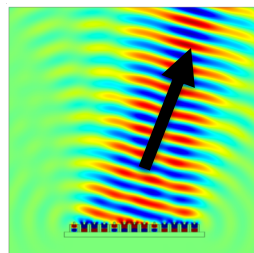
$$\omega_{\text{out}} = \omega_1$$

- Modulating both the real and imaginary parts

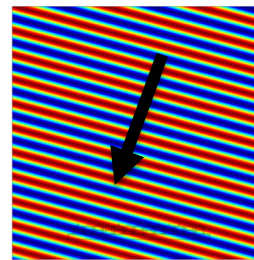
$$\epsilon(x, y, t) = \epsilon_c + \delta(y) \{ \cos[\Omega t + \phi(x)] + i \sin[\Omega t + \phi(x)] \} \Rightarrow S_{12} = 0 \neq S_{21} \sim e^{+i\phi}$$



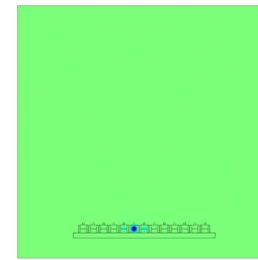
$$\omega_{\text{in}} = \omega_1$$



$$\omega_{\text{out}} = \omega_2$$



$$\omega_{\text{in}} = \omega_2$$



no output at ω_1

Summary and future work

- ❑ Electromagnetic nonreciprocity: a tricky subject!
- ❑ Coupled mode theory for nonreciprocal STMMs: asymmetric scattering matrix. Dynamical (nonreciprocal) focusing and beam steering
- ❑ Paper in preparation

Our next steps in the theory developments:

- ❑ Model and design suitable time-Floquet meta-atoms for experiments on nonreciprocity $\epsilon(x, y, t) = \epsilon_c + \delta(y) \cos[\Omega t + \phi(x)]$
- ❑ Consider travelling wave perturbations $n(x) = n_0 + \delta n \cos(K_{\text{MS}}x + \omega_{\text{MS}}t)$ using Bloch-Floquet theory. Model STMM for experimental demonstration of nonreciprocal wavefront control with this type of perturbations
- ❑ Study other kinds of “abrupt” perturbations, e.g. “coding” STMMs
- ❑ Explore PT symmetric metasurfaces for wavefront control using gain/loss